

## White Pond Reservation

White Pond is a 39.68-acre kettle pond located adjacent to the White Pond Reservation in West Concord. It formed from a large ice deposit left by the retreating glacial ice sheet more than 12,000 years ago. The depression left when the ice completely melted became a kettle pond 60 feet deep at the deepest spot that filled with water from natural springs. The terrain consists of glacial till with steep banks down to the water. **Please stay on marked trails to avoid erosion of these sandy soils.** It is populated with pine, oak, hemlock, and birch trees.

Although Walden Pond had been made famous by Thoreau's writings, he was also very familiar with White Pond. In fact, he said "Since the woodcutter, the railroad, and I myself have profaned Walden, perhaps the most attractive, if not the most beautiful of all our lakes, the gem of the woods, is White Pond." White Pond remains a gem of the woods today, with 70 acres of adjacent Town land containing well-developed hiking trails.

## Location and Access

There are several access points. A small informal parking area is located at the end of Varick Street off Dover Street. Parking is available for three vehicles. **Do not block the Town well access road.** A short walk on the main trail leads to an information kiosk. A second Concord access is off the old railroad bed along the west side of White Pond but there is no parking available here. A third access point, with parking, is at the Cummings Building in Sudbury that can be accessed from Route 117.



### Please Preserve and Protect the White Pond Environment

- Stay on marked trail - No bikes!
- Dogs on leash at all times.
- Observe no swimming postings while we conduct bank and trail maintenance.

**Thank You for Your Cooperation!**

Sachem's Cove



**Town of Concord**

## White Pond Reservation Trail Guide



White Pond

*...whether derived from the remarkable  
purity of its water or color of its sands...*

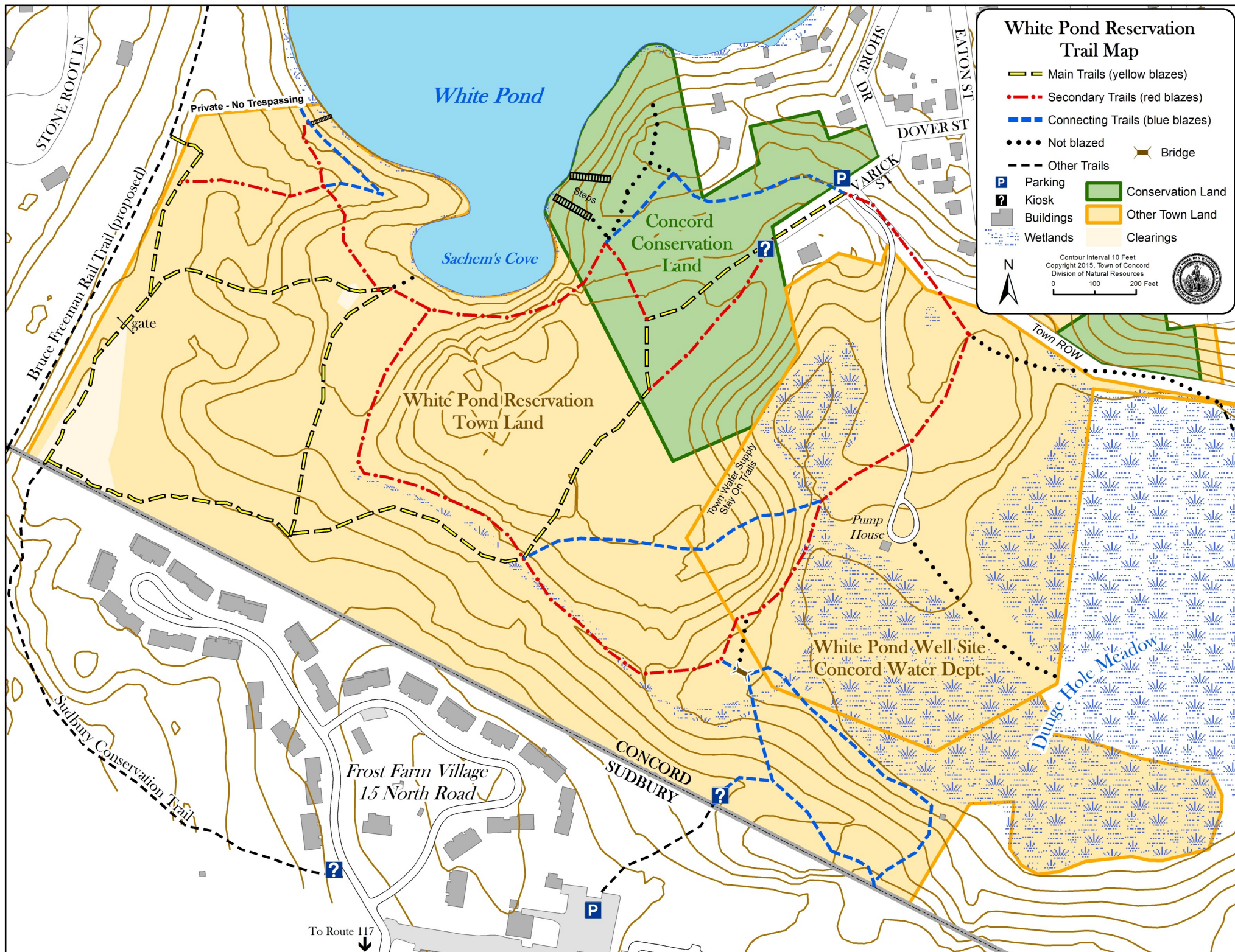
*~Henry David Thoreau~*



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# WHITE POND RESERVATION

## White Pond Early History

The Wisconsin Glacial Episode, ending approximately 12,000 years ago, is responsible for creating the current landscape at White Pond Reservation. Humans are thought to have arrived in the Concord area between 8,000 and 12,500 years ago. Artifacts found in the higher ground to the southeast of the pond give evidence of Native American presence. Areas to the east and southeast of White Pond would have been used by Middle Archaic to Middle Woodland People (1,000 to 8,000 years ago) as hunting camps. It is believed that the Nipmuc branch of the Algonquin family inhabited the area at least 3,000 years ago. Following European colonization in the 17th and 18th centuries, at least some of the land near White Pond was converted to pasture, orchards, and farm fields. By 1830, the presence of Powder Mill and Plainfield Roads indicate greater volume of commerce in the White Pond area. The Lowell-Framingham railroad came through near the pond in 1870 after Thoreau died; so in his lifetime, White Pond and environs were quite undeveloped. Abandoned in the 1970s, the railroad bed is currently being converted into the multi-use recreational Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

White Pond's status as a Great Pond dates back to English common law and the Colonial Ordinances of 1641-1647. These

laws provide for the preservation of pedestrian access to the water's edge for fishing, fowling, and navigation. To this end, petitions for enhanced public access in the late 1930s resulted in improvements of the access road at the eastern edge of the pond.

## White Pond Recent History

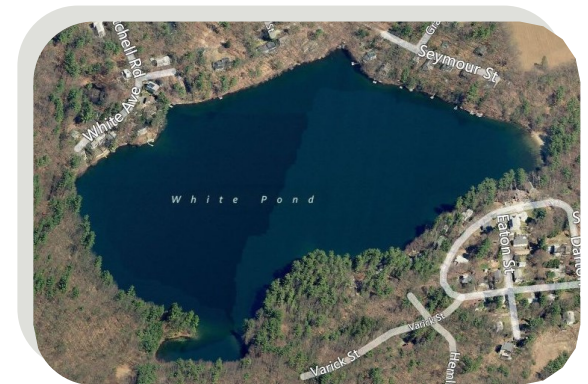
In the late 1920s and early 1930s, land on the east and west sides of the pond was subdivided into small lots to be developed by people interested in constructing seasonal camps to enjoy the pond and its environs in the summer. A few of these camps still exist but most have been converted to year round houses. Cellar holes can still be seen in places where the camps were torn or burned down and abandoned.

White Pond Associates, Inc. was formed in 1930 as a non-profit organization for the purpose of preserving the beach on the eastern side of the pond for swimming. In the 1950s, the state started stocking the pond with trout and salmon, and it is today a favored spot for fishermen.

White Pond Reservation is Town land managed by separate town entities in varying capacities. In 1972, a professional water and watershed analysis of White Pond affirmed the purity of the pond's water, and recommended preservation of parcels on the south and east sides of the pond. In 1973, the Town bought 10.1

acres of land including frontage on the pond. This parcel is conservation land under the control of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC).

Land on the southern edge of the pond abutting Sachem's Cove was owned by the Sperry Rand Research Center from the 1970s which had recreational facilities there for use by their employees. Sperry Rand was later absorbed into Unisys Corporation which later closed the facility and sold the land and buildings. In 1992, the towns of Concord and Sudbury cooperated to purchase the land from Unisys of which 40.45 acres are in Concord. Acquired as general purpose land under the control of the Board of Selectmen and



Aerial View of White Pond

managed by the NRC, some of the abutting land in Sudbury was later developed as the Frost Farm Village. The former Sperry Rand offices now house other organizations.

An adjoining parcel of land with a Town well is municipal land under the management of the Concord Public Works—Water and Sewer Division. Hikers are allowed to use the marked trails on all parcels.

### Animal Habitat

A wealth of wildlife inhabits the White Pond Reservation. Mammals include deer, coyote, fox, raccoon, red and grey squirrel, chipmunk, and skunk. Among amphibians and reptiles are painted turtles, frogs, salamanders, tree frogs, and water snakes. In addition to woodland birds, aquatic birds frequent the pond for food. Commonly, herons, mallard ducks, cormorants, and kingfishers are sighted; less often, wood ducks, osprey, mergansers, other duck species, and recently a bald eagle. The pond has an indigenous population of sunfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, and is stocked bi-annually with rainbow and brown trout and periodically with salmon.

### Suggested Walks

#### Two Reservation Tours:

a.) Start at the Varick Street parking lot. Take the blue trail up the hill and then join the red trail, straight ahead, along the ridge and down towards Sachem's Cove. (Note: there is an unblazed access to Sachem's Cove here.) In a small clearing, the red trail meets a junction of two yellow trails; take the branch to the right. Follow the yellow trail up the hill to a "T" junction with another yellow trail. Turn left on the yellow trail and continue to the

western corner of the Reservation. At the corner, turn left following the yellow trail across a small field and continue on the yellow trail, straight through intersections with yellow, red, and blue trails, all the way back to the Varick Street parking lot. Walking time: 25 minutes.

b.) Starting at the parking lot behind the Cummings Building in Sudbury, cross a small field, then follow an unblazed trail to a kiosk. Go straight ahead on the blue trail, staying left at two forks to reach a "T" junction with a red trail. Turn right on the red trail and follow it, crossing the Town well access road, to the Varick Street parking lot. From there, follow the blue trail up the hill and then join the red trail straight ahead along the ridge and down towards Sachem's Cove. (Note: there is an unblazed access to Sachem's Cove nearby.) At the red trail fork, branch left and follow the red trail through an intersection with a yellow and blue trail to its next intersection with a blue trail. Turn right on this blue trail, staying right at two forks, and continue to the trail to the Sudbury parking lot. Walking time: 35 minutes.

**Dunge Hole Meadow** – The marshy meadow in the southeast corner of the reservation land is a secluded animal habitat. To observe this habitat follow the red trail from the Varick Street parking lot until it crosses the Town well access road. Go left down the road toward the well building. Just left of the building, follow an unblazed trail southeast from the access road along a low ridge with swamp on either side. Please be respectful of this

high-value wildlife habitat and pass through the area quietly. Reverse direction to return. Walking time: 8 minutes (one way).

### Points of Interest

#### Sachem's Cove

The name "Sachem's Cove" (Chief's Cove) was given to that most remote section of the pond to the southeast. Ralph Waldo Emerson called it a "pretty little Indian bath..." where one "could almost see the Sachem in his canoe in a shadowy cove."



Sachem's Cove

#### Dunge Hole Meadow

The name "dunge hole" was once given to any low, mucky land. That very well describes the southeast portion of the reservation land where wildlife live in abundance. Recently, great blue heron have nested in the standing dead trees that protrude above the low marsh growth but appear to have left for other areas. There are beavers active in the water and bird nesting in the standing dead trees.